

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2475

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that imported meat and meat food products containing imported meat be labeled imported, and to require that certain eating establishments serving imported meat inform customers of that fact.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 1995

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that imported meat and meat food products containing imported meat be labeled imported, and to require that certain eating establishments serving imported meat inform customers of that fact.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. Section 1(n) of the Federal Meat Inspec-
4 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (11) by striking out “or” at
6 the end,

1 (2) in paragraph (12) by striking out the period
2 at the end and inserting in lieu thereof “; or”, and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraph:

5 “(13) if it is or was imported and if its labeling
6 fails to bear the words ‘imported’, ‘may have been
7 imported’, ‘this product contains imported meat’,
8 ‘this product may contain imported meat’, ‘this con-
9 tainer contains imported meat’, or ‘this container
10 may contain imported meat’, as the case may be, or
11 words to indicate its country of origin.”.

12 SEC. 2. (a) Whoever—

13 (1) owns or operates an eating establishment,

14 (2) sells in such eating establishment a signifi-
15 cant amount of meat or meat food products im-
16 ported into the United States, or meat food products
17 that, in the aggregate, contain a significant amount
18 of meat imported into the United States, and

19 (3) knowingly fails, or knowingly permits any
20 employee or agent to fail, to inform individuals pur-
21 chasing food from such eating establishment of the
22 fact that such meat or meat food products are sold
23 therein—

1 (A) by displaying, in a conspicuous place
2 in or on such eating establishment, a sign indi-
3 cating such fact, or

4 (B) by indicating such fact on menus of-
5 fered, posted, or otherwise made available to
6 such individuals,

7 shall be issued a warning on the first occasion on
8 which it is discovered that any such failure may have
9 occurred and shall be fined an amount not to exceed
10 \$500 for each day on which any such failure occurs
11 after receipt of such warning.

12 (b) For purposes of this section—

13 (1) the term “eating establishment” means any
14 restaurant, cafeteria, lunch counter, lunchroom, soda
15 fountain, food stand, saloon, tavern, bar, lounge,
16 vending machine, or other similar facility (including
17 any such facility located on the premises of any re-
18 tail or recreational establishment), operated as a
19 commercial enterprise engaged in the business of
20 selling food to the public,

21 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of Agriculture,

23 (3) the term “significant amount” shall have
24 the meaning given to it by the Secretary under sub-
25 section (c), and

1 (4) the term “meat food product” shall have
2 the meaning given to it in section 1(j) of the Federal
3 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(j)).

4 (c)(1) For purposes of subsection (b)(3), the Sec-
5 retary shall issue a proposed rule defining the term “sig-
6 nificant amount”, as used in subsection (a)(2), not later
7 than thirty calendar days after the date of the enactment
8 of this Act.

9 (2) The Committee on Agriculture of the House of
10 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
11 tion, and Forestry of the Senate may each disapprove any
12 proposed rule issued under paragraph (1) or (3) not later
13 than sixty days of continuous session of the Congress after
14 the date on which any such proposed rule is issued.

15 (3) If any proposed rule is disapproved by either com-
16 mittee under paragraph (2), then the Secretary shall with-
17 draw such proposed rule, and, taking into consideration
18 the objections of each committee disapproving such pro-
19 posed rule, shall issue another proposed rule defining the
20 term specified in paragraph (1), not later than thirty cal-
21 endar days after any such disapproval.

22 (4) No proposed rule issued under paragraph (1) or
23 paragraph (3) may take effect before the expiration of the
24 sixty-day period described in paragraph (2).

25 (5) For purposes of paragraph (2)—

1 (A) continuity of session is broken only by an
2 adjournment of the Congress sine die, and

3 (B) days on which either House is not in ses-
4 sion because of an adjournment of more than three
5 days to a day certain shall be excluded in the com-
6 putation of the sixty-day period described in para-
7 graph (2).

8 SEC. 3. (a) This section and section 2(c) shall take
9 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 (b) The amendment made by section 1 shall take ef-
11 fect one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 (c) Section 2 (other than subsection (c)) shall take
13 effect one year after the expiration of the sixty-day period
14 described in section 2(c)(2) during which a proposed rule
15 issued under paragraph (1) or (3) of section 2(c) is not
16 disapproved.

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